PAID

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Rev. A. A. Phelps

Boston

Mass.

this lonely place, hear almost nothing but what they Contain. I should be pleased to get a line from you whenever you have time to write.

My dear wife is greatly afflicted. She has taken about ½ ounce of a concentrated solution of Morphine in little more than 24 hours. She is happy in the hope of a better world, and bears her pains with great resignation.

Truly yours
Tho: Lafon

I know much of the subject in hand. I wd like to show you these letters, but I do not expect to leave my afflicted wife again while she lives, and I suppose you never come to this out-of-the-way place. You may, and doubtless do know much more of that side of the Board that fronts towards the Churches & the public here, but the foreign missionary is compelled to know and to feel some things that emanate from the side that looks towards him, of which the public are almost entirely ignorant. I do not mean to speak of two sides in any bad sense; but the Bd is a large body between the Churches & the Missionaries, and has distinct and separate dealings towards both. To a great extent it is not identified with either, though in a certain sense it is with both. The small amount of information which the Bd sees fit to transmit through itself from the one to the other has the tendency to beget a feeling of suspicion between the Churches & the very Children she has given birth to, & sent abroad. So that, under certain circumstances, a large mission, with many grey heads in it, will unanimously decide that a missionary ought to go home, and the Church will feel indignant at having him come home, & the Bd opposes his coming, because it displeases the Church.

D. Staves & D. Anderson have arrived. What news? I take the N.Y. Evangelist & the Emancipator and in

Dr. Thomas Lafon

July 16. 1844.

North Fairhaven July 16th 1844.

Rev. A. A. Phelps

Boston

Dear Brother,

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I had a word more to say to the young man across the Counter when I saw you last, and then was at liberty. While speaking to him you went into another room, and as I had nothing important, I thought I would not interrupt you.

I have some letters on hand which I have never shown to any one, and I do not make extracts from them, because they would need to be accompanied with more remarks than I can afford to write. I had rec^d one from the Islands before I last met you, & have rec^d another since, touching the condition of Missionaries abroad under the A.B.C., which show that though the law in relation to their return home may be repealed, yet the difficulty upon that subject is not therefore, necessarily, done away. The letters that touch this subject, are not as full as I could wish, and to any one but myself they might appear to mean but little; but in writing to me it is remembered that